

Discussion Questions

for

The Oath: Tales From a Revolution – Georgia

Chapters 1-5

- How did the exercise of applying for his pension wind up providing a record of James' service?
- What do we learn about sentiment toward the war from the reaction of James' family to his enlistment?
- How does Patrick's attitude toward the French soldiers reflect the biases of the era?
- What does James' contact with the French forces do to change his own biases?
- How did the British sow confusion and deadly conflict between the French and American forces?

Chapters 6-10

- How does the sergeant's reaction to James' altercation demonstrate both caution and wisdom?
- What is the significance of the oath that James takes with the French soldiers?
- How does siege warfare wear on the besiegers as much as on the besieged?
- What is the impact on morale of Colonel White's exploits?
- What does the attitude of the men toward their officers tell us about the regard in which they hold their leadership?

Chapters 11-15

- What effect does the carnage of the battle have on its survivors?
- How does the theme of dehumanization appear in both its negative and positive aspects?
- What do we learn about James' general character from his conversation with Paul?

Chapters 16-20

- How is the disclosure of the rum oath perceived by the French and American leaders?
- Is the sophistication of the construction techniques James encounters at Charles-Town surprising to you?
- How does Horatio's injury bring James both further danger and a measure of joy?

Chapters 21-25

- How does the spread of smallpox parallel our own recent history?
- What purpose do the games of chance serve for James and Horatio?
- How does the course of the disease parallel the conditions outside of the hospital?
- How does James seek to fulfill both the rum oath and the obligations of the Revolution?